MONTANA DRIVER EDUCATION AND TRAINING CURRICULUM GUIDE

CLASSROOM AND IN-CAR SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Classroom Module Lessons	Behind the Wheel Lessons
Module 1: Course Overview/Parent Orientation • program registration process • teen driver education and training program goals • course structure, policies and rules • Graduated Driver Licensing Law • responsibilities of the instructor, parent and student • behaviors resulting in driver errors • crash statistics in Montana and nationally • risks associated with poor driving habits	
Module 2: Preparing to Operate a Vehicle • function of alert and warning symbols, and gauges • location, function, and operation of vehicle control devices and safety, communication, and convenience devices • pre-entry tasks made around the vehicle entry into the vehicle tasks • seating, steering wheel (if adjustable), and restraint adjustments • traditional mirror adjustments • enhanced side view mirror (GBE) settings • securing and exiting tasks after stopping a motor vehicle.	
Module 3: Traffic Control Devices and Laws • needs and purpose for traffic control devices for signs, signals, and markings • color and function of traffic signal lights, and signal/sign combinations • meanings of colors and shapes of roadway signs, signals, and markings • categorize roadway signs, signals, and markings into meaningful applications • driver responses to roadway signs, signals, and markings • apply the traffic laws	
Module 4: Basic Control Tasks • blind areas to the front, sides, and rear of a vehicle • targeting establishes steering accuracy • visual reference points • pre-drive and starting tasks • four (4) steering wheel control techniques • procedures for entering and leaving the roadway • acceleration control • controlled, threshold, and trail braking control • left and right precision turns, stopped and moving • backing straight and while turning	<u>In-Car Lesson 1</u> <u>Environment: Parking Lot</u> • Preparation to Drive • Orientation to Controls/Adjustments • All Occupants Buckled Up • Starting the Vehicle • Steering Wheel Control • Putting the Vehicle into Motion • Managing Speed Control • On/Off Targeting (Vision Control) — Turn Head before Turning Wheel • Tracking on a Straight Path • Stopping Smoothly with Controlled Braking • Stopping Quickly with Threshold Braking • Securing and Exiting the Vehicle

	In-Car Lesson 2 Environment: Low Speed, Low Risk Traffic • Locating Reference Points • Selecting Lane Positions • Searching Intersections • Responding to Signs/Signals/Markings • Entering Intersections • Turning Right from a Stop and While Moving • Turning Left from a Stop and While Moving • Backing on a Straight Path • Backing While Turning
Module 5: Strategies for Effective Vision Control • fields of vision • overcoming physical visual problems • effect speed has on vision • techniques to improve vision while driving • good driving habits	
Module 6: Strategies for Managing Time and Space • components of a space management system • orderly visual search pattern • changes to line of sight restrictions • changes to path of travel restrictions • six zone locations • maximize lane positions • evaluate a gap • control vehicle space to the front, sides, rear • communication techniques • orderly visual search process • evaluate target area • restrictions to the line of sight • restrictions to the path of travel • 20 to 30 second visual search range • 12-15 second visual search range • 4-6 second immediate response range • control space around the vehicle • selecting a gap • communication prior to a speed or lane position • dangers of improper signaling • respond to traffic to the sides and rear • calculate distance traveled with various speeds • vehicle control sequence of vision control, motion control, and steering control	
Module 7: Strategies for Mixing with Traffic • yielding right of way • yielding to emergency vehicles, funerals, school buses, and pedestrians • right of way rules at intersections with highway-rail grade crossings • different intersection types	Drive Three Objectives Environment: Low Risk Traffic • Responding to Traffic Signs, Signals, Markings — Yielding Right of Way — Selecting Where to Stop • Searching to the Front • Approaching & Recognizing Intersections Types • Searching Intersections

• respond to traffic signs, signals and markings • controlled and uncontrolled intersections • controlled and uncontrolled railroad crossings • searching skills to the left, front, right and rear of the vehicle • identify and select the best lane position, best speed, and communication • legal and staggered stop positions • vision, motion and steering control • lane change and passing • blind area checks and mirror use • speed adjustment • lane positions • vision, motion and steering control • communication techniques	— Identifies Line of Sight/Path of Travel (LOS-POT) Restrictions • Controlling Space to the Front — Judging Distance in Seconds — Establishing Following Time — Selecting Lane Positions • Entering Intersections • Changing Lanes • Reading Instruments <u>Drive Four Objectives</u> <u>Environment: Moderate Traffic</u> • Evaluating Target Path • Searching to the Front • Responding to LOS/POT Conditions • Selecting Lane Positions • Applying Speed Control • Stopping With Vehicle in Front • Using Staggered Stops for Space Management • Delaying Moving for 2 Seconds • Identifying Open/Closed Zones • Using Share Lanes • Passing and Being Passed
Module 8: Vehicle Control in Limited Spaces • 2 point turnabouts • 3 point turnabouts and • U turns • angle parking • parallel parking • street/curb parking • perpendicular forward parking • perpendicular backing into parking space • parking on a uphill and downhill with and without a curb • parking in restricted parking areas	<u>Drive Five Objectives</u> <u>Environment: Low Risk Traffic</u> • Selecting and Performing Turnabout Options — Mid-Block U-Turn — Intersection U-Turns — Two-Point—Right and Left — Three-Point • Forward Perpendicular Parking • Angle Parking <u>Drive Six Objectives</u> <u>Environment: Low to Moderate Traffic and Speeds, Parking Lot</u> • Space Management • Backing into Perpendicular Parking • Backing into an Alley or Driveway • Making Legal Stops & Staggered Stops • Responding to Signs/Signals/Markings • Practice Commentary Driving
Module 9: Natural Laws Affecting Vehicle Control • gravity and energy of motion • effect gravity and energy of motion have on friction and traction • effect of speed on energy of motion • forces of an impact • tire condition and air pressure on traction • forces while in a curve • factors that affect braking distance	

• vehicle modifications on vehicle balance and traction • forces of energy on vehicles of different weights and size • vehicle's maximum load • cause and effect of vehicle load changes (balance) from side to side, front to rear, and rear to front • effect of vehicle load on vehicle balance • proper seating position for vehicle balance and control • hands and steering techniques to maintain vehicle balance and control • aggressive steering, braking, and acceleration affects vehicle balance and control • feet positions to maintain vehicle balance and control • acceleration and braking techniques to maintain vehicle balance and control • traction loss and effect to the front wheels and rear wheels • manage traction loss on a front wheel drive, rear wheel drive, and all wheel drive vehicle • conditions that can create traction loss and vehicle imbalance • traction and vehicle balance are affected by steering, acceleration, deceleration and roadway surfaces • function and advantages of 2- and 4- wheel anti-lock braking (ABS) systems • vehicle braking systems and the proper braking techniques used for those systems; and explain the purpose of enhanced (variable/assist) steering, stability control and traction control systems • enhanced (variable/assist) steering, stability control and traction control systems • the three collisions of a crash and the effect on the restrained and unrestrained human body • locations and purpose of airbags, belt adjusters, and head restraints and demonstrate proper adjustments and operation to provide crash survival protection for adults • child restraint systems (infants, forward-facing, booster seats and lap shoulder devices) operate, proper positioning within a vehicle and how they provide crash survival protection • demonstrate proper steering wheel adjustments to accommodate for airbags	
Module 10: Strategies for Negotiating Hills and Curves • respond to line of sight and path of travel restrictions • approach to hills or curves • speed for ascending and descending hills • entry speed and lane positions for a hill or curves • speed and lane positions in a curves' apex • speed and lane positions for exiting curves • maintain traction in curves	<u>Drive Seven Objectives</u> <u>Environment: Moderate Speeds and Traffic</u> • Space Management • Searching for Curves in Target Area — Adjusting for Best Speed — Adjusting for Best Lane Position • Searching Through Curves • Driving Through Curves — Approach — Visual Search — Speed Control/Trail Braking — Lane Position • Managing Vehicle Balance • Driving Up and Down Hills — Selecting Best Lane Position — Maintaining Speed Control — Stopping and Starting on a Hill — Parking on Hills

	Drive Eight Objectives Environment: Complex with Increased Speeds and Traffic • Space Management • Using a Visual Search Pattern • Recognizing Rear Zone Changes • Controlling Rear Zone • Keeping 3-4 Second Following Time • Navigating One-Way Streets • Communication and Courtesy
Module 11: Rural and Highway Driving • characteristics of rural driving environments • signs, signals and markings • hazards associated with rural driving • animals in rural areas and know and abide by Montana's Open Range Law • road conditions with proper lane position and speed • passing and being passed on two lane and multi-lane rural roads • slow moving vehicles • time and space management strategies for rural driving environments	Drive Nine Objectives Environment: Moderate Speeds and Traffic • Space Management • Passing and Being Passed on Two-Lane Roads • Practicing ABS Braking (when available)
Module 12: Urban Driving • characteristics of an urban driving environments • signs, signals, and markings • hazards associated with urban driving • different types of intersection and roadway configurations • time and space management strategies for urban environments	
Module 13: Limited Access Highway Driving • advantages and disadvantages of limited access highways • signs, signals, and markings • types of expressway interchanges • lane choice • problems due to congestion • good habits for entering and exiting limited access highways • good habits for lane changes and passing • higher speed can affect vehicle control • steering control, speed control, and braking control	
Module 14: Strategies for Adverse Conditions • sources for glare and procedures to protect from glare • low light or darkness conditions • laws regarding headlights use • headlight projection and efficient and proper use of vehicle illumination • fog related reduced visibility conditions • winter driving conditions • limited visibility conditions caused by smoke and dust • rain related reduced visibility • extreme weather driving conditions such as flooding, heat, cold, storms, blizzards, and strong wind	Drive Ten Objectives Environment: Interstate or Simulated Environment • Space Management • Entering, Lane Changing and Exiting Limited Access Highways

Module 15: Sharing the Road with Other Users • bicyclists • trucks • trains • buses • construction vehicles • farm machinery • slow-moving vehicles • oversized vehicles • vehicles towing trailers • recreational vehicles • motorcyclists • mopeds and scooters • emergency vehicles • funeral processions • animals • pedestrians	
Module 16: Strategies for Emergencies • sudden tire deflation • accelerator problems • engine, cooling, steering, electrical, lighting, and brake failures • vehicle fire • skids • emergency evasive steering • return a vehicle to the pavement from an off-road condition • Montana's Good Samaritan Law • reporting a collision • what to do at the scene of a collisions • when law enforcement must be called after a collision • respond to emergency personnel's directions • insurance reporting requirements • complete a collision report	<u>Drive Eleven Objectives</u> <u>Environment: Complex with Increased Speeds and Traffic</u> • Space Management • Managing Zones • Sharing the Road with Other Users • Communication and Courtesy • Parallel Parking • Driving at Night (when available) • Rail Grade Crossing • Handling emergency situations (simulated if needed)
Module 17: Driver Fitness and Responsibilities • senses used while driving • emotions affect on driver behavior • control emotions while driving • temporary and permanent disabilities • compensate for disabilities while driving • legal and illegal alcohol and drugs affect people differently • amount of alcohol in various drinks • blood alcohol content (BAC) related to a person's body weight • BAC related to consuming a certain number of drinks containing alcohol in a given period of time • synergistic effects of alcohol and/or drugs • effects of alcohol and drugs on driver perception, vision, reaction time, and risk-taking • increased probability of being involved in a fatal traffic crash after drinking • physiological and psychological effects of other drugs on the driving task • wise not to use alcohol or other drugs while operating a motor vehicle • develop a plan to intervene when someone is drinking • say no to peer pressure involving alcohol or other drug usage	

• scope of the overall alcohol/traffic safety problem in Montana and the United States • alcohol is the most commonly used drug involved with driving • facts about teenage drinking and driving in Montana and the United States • excuses why people drink and drive or use drugs and drive • effect alcohol related crashes have on families and communities • rules, regulations, and penalties applicable for minors in possession, minors and adults while driving under the influence, and open containers • rules, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for improper use of a driver license to obtain alcohol • rules, regulations, and penalties applicable to minors and adults for administrative license suspension and implied consent • physical and mental affect of fatigue on driver behavior; • importance of sleep and its affect on performance • physical and mental symptoms of fatigue on the driving task • methods to prevent driving while fatigued and drowsy • aggressive driving behaviors that can lead to road rage • driver errors that can lead to aggressive driving • anxieties that can lead to dangerous driving behaviors • strategies to reduce conflicts while driving • anger management techniques to prevent aggressive driving and road rage • vehicle audio and video systems distract • cell phones distract • passengers distract • unrestrained animals can distract • eating, drinking, and smoking distract • reading can distract • personal grooming can distract • conditions outside the vehicle can create distractions • personal plan for reducing distractions while driving	
Module 18: Owning a Vehicle • the components of the Highway Transportation System • impact and consequences of personal driving behaviors on other users in the Highway Transportation System • insurance obligations for owning and driving an automobile • Montana's vehicle insurance laws • coverage and conditions for automobile insurance • establish and reduce automobile insurance rates • reasons individuals have automobile insurance denied or revoked • report to insurance agents after a crash • purchasing a new or used automobile • pre-purchase inspection of a used automobile • expenses associated with purchasing and owning a new or used automobile • understand the registration and titling process • dashboard warning symbols and respond to an activated warning symbol • under the hood vehicle maintenance checks • service requirements of the steering, suspension, fuel, electrical, lighting, and braking systems • mechanical and tire malfunctions and the importance of	

securing maintenance and repairs to eliminate potential driving problems • routes for local and extended trips using state and local maps • personal and vehicular needs for an extended trip • cost of an extended trip; • alternative routes • trip planning information from the Internet • prepare and load a vehicle for travel • littering • costs linked to littering • emissions and pollutants emitted by motor vehicles • maintenance tasks that keep vehicles from polluting • motor vehicle fluids and parts that must and can be recycled • driving techniques that conserve fuel • personal strategies to reduce litter on Montana's roadways • personal and global benefits of conserving energy, reducing pollution, and recycling	
Module 19: Managing Risk • crash survival features incorporated into highway and vehicular design • collision types and actions to control the consequences of a crash • improved highway and vehicle technology helps minimize the consequences of a crash	
Module 20: Driver Licensing and Final Assessment • process of obtaining and maintaining a Montana driver license • types of driver licenses and permits • special information that may be placed on a driver license or instruction permit • licensing restrictions, suspensions, and revocations placed on driving privileges • license renewal processes • Skills to reinforce and practice • requirements and consequences during the graduated driver license period • purpose of the supervising driver practice guide and how to utilize it during the required practice period • guided behind-the-wheel practice • strategies to continue and accept personal responsibility for the life-long learning process of reduced risk driving	<u>Drive Twelve Objectives</u> • Skills Assessment (ideally with parent)